



The licensing process

Commonwealth facilities that use, produce or manage radiation are required to be licensed by ARPANSA to ensure radiological protection of people and the environment.

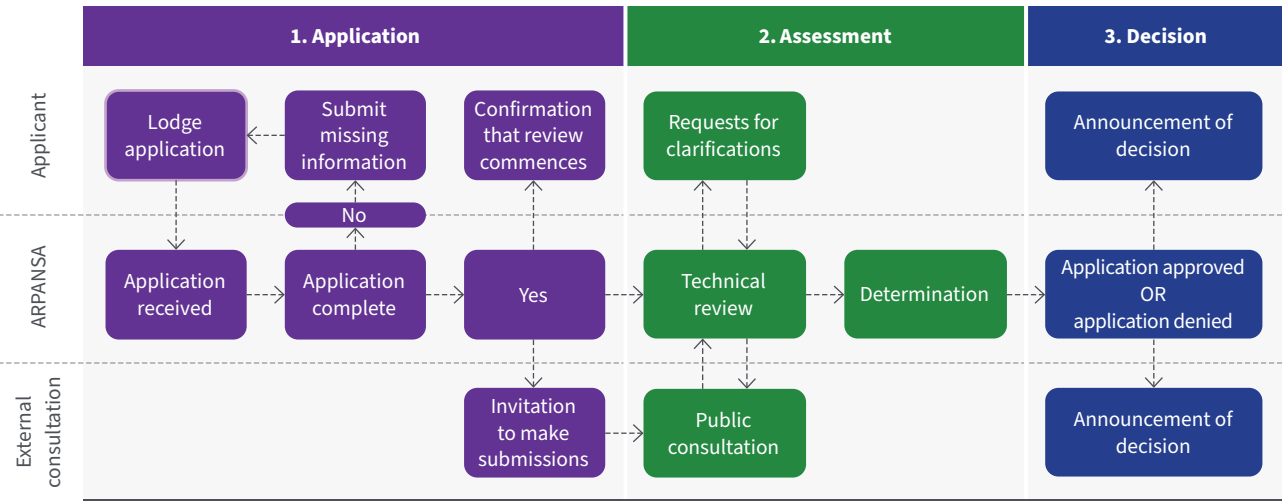
ARPANSA outlines the documentation an applicant is required to provide to make an informed licence assessment. Documentation will vary depending on the type of facility but will demonstrate that the proposed facility is compliant with the stringent requirements of the Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act and Regulations.

The licensing decision is based on the applicant providing evidence satisfying the ARPANSA CEO that the proposed facility or activity can be managed in

a way that provides assurance of the radiological safety of people and the environment. The CEO is required to take into account international best practice in relation to radiation protection and nuclear safety and may seek advice from external experts.

For facilities that meet the criteria of a nuclear installation, the CEO must invite public submissions on the application and take any submissions into account when making a licensing decision. Depending on the facility and public sentiment, the CEO may choose to invite public submissions on other types of facilities such as a Prescribed Radiation Facility. The licensing process is shown in the diagram below.

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Commonwealth legislative requirements

The key legislation governing the licensing of a facility is the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Act 1998* and the *Australian Radiation Protection and Nuclear Safety Regulations 2018*. Regulated facilities also need to adhere to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, and the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Safeguards) Act 1987*.

Staged licensing process

The licensing of a facility is a staged process. A new licence application is required for each stage of a facility. The key stages are illustrated in the diagram below.

The diagram also illustrates that compliance monitoring including inspections is undertaken throughout the life of the facility, from before construction until the site is released from regulatory control.

The staged approach allows for continuous improvement in the design, operation and safety through the lifetime of the facility. Safety assessments are reviewed and developed accordingly as facilities progress through each stage.

The licence application for each stage needs to be forward looking and contain enough information on the safety and security aspects of future stages, to allow the CEO to make an informed decision.

If there are changes to the facility during its lifetime, approval is required from ARPANSA before changes can be made.

Licensing stages

